

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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MT. VERNON MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 23, 2006, **DEVON S. SMITH**, age 20, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **SMITH** was sentenced to 188 months imprisonment, was fined \$750, and was placed on 6 years supervised release.

SMITH had previously pleaded guilty to a two count federal indictment, CHARGING TOW COUNTS OF UNLAWFUL DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE IN January 2005.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.